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January 2018



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Impacts Lives
of Students

January-February
class schedule

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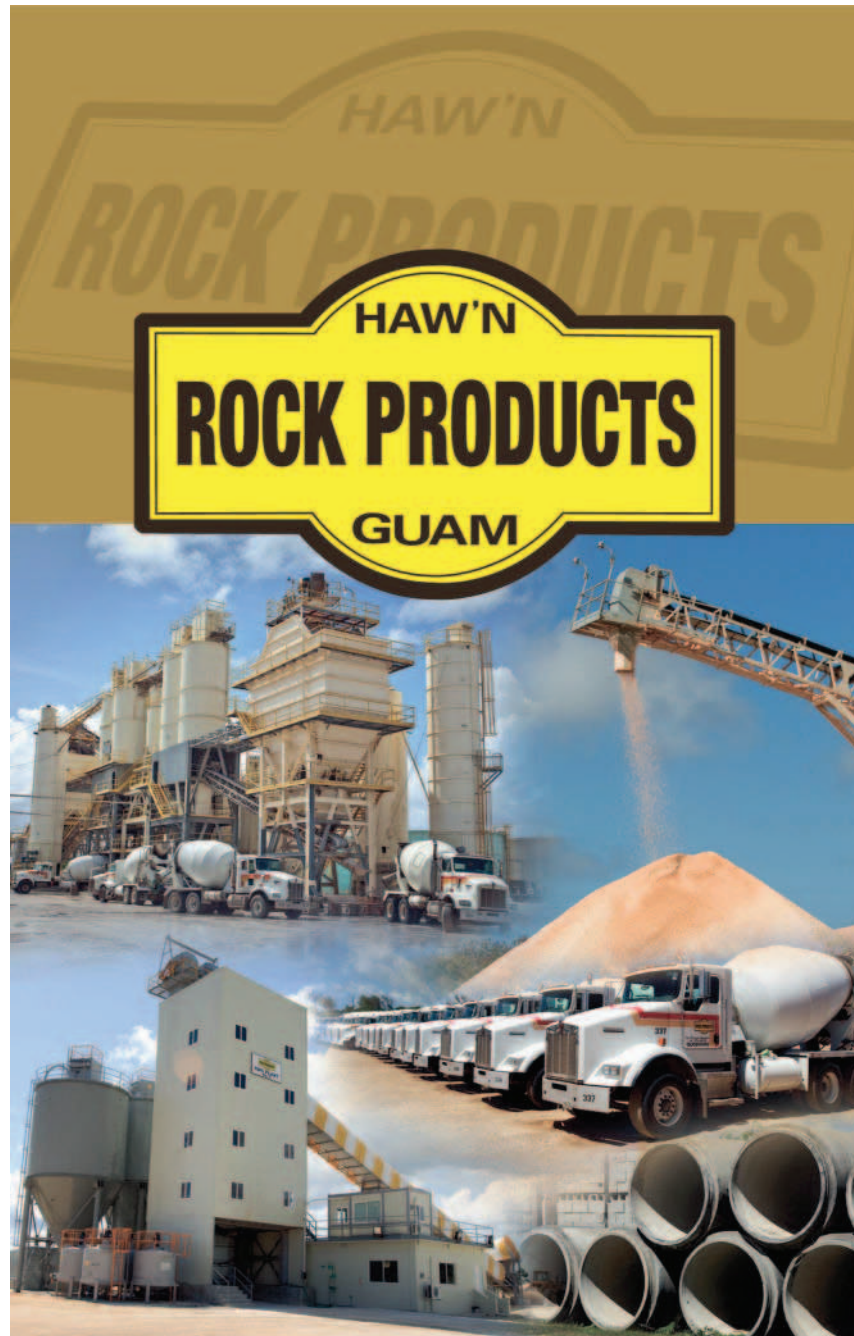
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Meet New
Board of Trustees
Members

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TRADES

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New Members welcomed to GCA Trades Academy Board of Trustees

The GCA Trades Academy Board of Trustees welcomes two new members, Bernie Valencia, Matson's vice president & general manager, Guam & Micronesia, and Don McCann, Black Construction Corporation's vice president operations.

Valencia has been with Matson for 9 years. Before her current position she was general manager and a regional sales manager. "Not everybody has a four year or advanced degree," she said. "People still have something to offer to the workforce." The GCA Trades Academy can "help others realize their potential and learn important skill sets and contribute to the economy."



Don McCann

"I want to help the Trades Academy and the apprenticeship program."



Bernie Valencia

"Help others realize their potential and learn important skill sets and contribute to the economy."

McCann has been with Black Construction Corporation for 19 years. He started his career in construction as a superintendent,

project manager, and senior project manager. He became vice president operations in 2013. McCann said as a trustee he wants to "help the Trades Academy and the apprenticeship program."

Valencia and McCann joined at the invitation of the six current trustees: Chairman John Robertson, Vice Chairman Bill Beery, Treasurer Monty McDowell, Secretary Mary Okada, and Trustees John Sage and Graeme Ridley.

Founded in September 2006, almost 3,000 students have taken classes at the GCA Trades Academy.

Interested in construction?

Call the GCA Trades Academy
at 647-4843 or email them
at gcatrades@guam.net

www.gcatradesacademy.org

[www.facebook.com/
gcatradesacademy](https://www.facebook.com/gcatradesacademy)

Ways to pay for the GCA Trades Academy classes

1 Student. Classes are only \$80 per week plus text books. GCA Trades Academy provides everything else. Call the GCA Trades Academy, 647-4842/3, for more information.

2 Employers. Many employers provide additional training and development at the GCA Trades Academy to existing staff in order to increase the skills of the company's workforce. Ask your employer to send you to the GCA Trades Academy.

3 Scholarships. Several local companies and community organizations provide scholarship funds for craft training. Call the GCA Trades Academy, 647-4842/3, for more information.

4 Apprenticeship. Registered apprenticeship programs are operated by both the private sector and public sector. Sponsors include employers, employer associations and joint labor/management organizations. Programs sponsors and government programs pay most of the training costs. Call the Guam Contractors Association, 647-4840/1, for more information.

5 American Job Center. GCA Trades Academy is a training provider for the clients of American Job Center. Call the American Job Center, 475-7000/1 for more information.

GCA Trades Academy Impacts the Lives of its Students



Mark Camacho



Darlene Borja



Gene Camacho



Paul Manibusan Jr.



Letecia V. Bates

Photos courtesy
of GCA Trades
Academy

By Josie Moyer

Students enroll at GCA Trades Academy for different reasons but they all have one thing in common: their lives are affected in some way by the knowledge and skills they acquire in the trades. We caught up with five current students to find out how their lives have been impacted since they began learning at the Trades Academy.

Mark Camacho

Mark John D. Camacho's first experience in the trades was in the heavy equipment field. Despite having the necessary skills and training to be a heavy equipment operator, Camacho struggled to break into the field because of a lack of experience. Frustrated and discouraged, he decided to go back to school to learn the basics of construction. While taking Core Curriculum at GCA Trades Academy, he took on a job as a laborer for an electrical company.

"About three months into the job some of the guys there asked me about the apprenticeship program because I was taking classes at the Trades Academy," said Camacho. "So I went to the office and found out about the program and I ended joining the apprenticeship program for electrical." The 38-year-old is on track to complete Level 4 Electrical in March 2018.

Camacho is employed with Marianas Renewable Energy where he installs solar panel frames and racks and performs other tasks such as wire, inverter, gutter, and conduit installations. He says he enjoys the job because of the knowledge and skills he continues to build upon while on the job and that he's looking to pursue the electronics and high voltage courses after he completes his electrical apprenticeship.

"I love learning and doing different things. If I wasn't always learning something new I would get bored with this job," said the father of four. "The difference between working as a laborer and working as an electrician is the money grew. I started off at \$8 as a laborer and now I'm making more money. I also have more knowledge now so I also don't feel lost out in the field," he added.

Darlene Borja

Work can be challenging and intimidating when you're the only woman in a male-dominated field, according to Darlene Borja. The 31-year-old is employed with 3J Maintenance, a company subcontracted to Agana Shopping Center. Borja describes her position as a "jack of all trades" and has worked on electrical, plumbing and even tiling jobs since joining the company in November 2017.

"When I first started I was the only girl and I'm still the only girl. In the beginning, they (the men) kind of underestimate what we're able to do but you've just got to keep proving and working and showing them

that you're able to do what they can do. Now my co-workers treat me like one of the boys," said Borja.

Borja is currently taking the Construction Craft Laborer (CCL) 1 class. When she initially enrolled at the Trades Academy her plan was to complete CCL 1 and 2 and then enlist in the military. But after giving it some thought, Borja realized joining the military would mean a lot of time spent away from her children. Her plan now is to complete the CCL classes and then pursue a career in electrical.

"I find electrical fascinating. If I go into electrical I can spend more time with my kids and even pass those skills down to them," said Borja. "Honestly, I just really like what I do. It's a really huge change from what I was doing before (waitressing and working in an office). This job is more hands-on and I don't get bored because I learn something new every day."

Gene Camacho

Eugene "Gene" Camacho made the decision to take classes in Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) because he wanted to be able to fix his air conditioning units at home. The 35-year-old husband and father of three is a former maintenance supervisor for the Piti Mayor's Office, a position he held for 11 years. For the past year and two months he has been employed with DZSP21 as a general maintenance technician where he uses the knowledge and skills he learns at the Trades Academy to service air conditioners and air compressors. Camacho is currently an

HVAC Level 2 student.

Camacho enjoys the hands-on learning experience the Trades Academy provides and has high praise for HVAC instructor Tony Salas. "Tony Salas is the number one instructor for HVAC," said Camacho. "With Tony, he'll teach us the book and then he'll teach us hands-on. It's not just strictly book – you don't really learn just from a book, especially in the trades. We'll go over the book but we'll jump to hands on, inside the classroom and outside the classroom. We'll bring in equipment and take it apart."

Paul Manibusan Jr.

When he was a student in high school, Paul Manibusan's plan was to pursue a career in auto mechanics because his father was a mechanic. Instead he got a job as a scaffold worker and was responsible for setting up and taking down scaffolding at various construction job sites. When the company shut down, Manibusan's father-in-law suggested he go into the HVAC field. His father-in-law is the owner of Koolit Guam, a business that services residential and commercial air conditioning.

Manibusan took his father-in-law's advice and is currently an HVAC Level 3 student at GCA Trades Academy. The 23-year-old father of two also holds down a full-time position as a general maintenance technician at DZSP21, a job he has enjoyed for the past year and two months.

"It's not tiring work. I enjoy it a lot. When we have a problem, I like to research and figure it out. And when we actually solve the problem it makes me feel good about it," said Manibusan.

Manibusan says the class schedule at the Trades Academy works well with his work schedule because his classes are held just two times a week in the evening. He also appreciates that his instructor Tony Salas is available both in and outside of the classroom.

"If we have problems (with our sideline jobs) and we can't figure it out, we'll ask our instructor Tony Salas and he helps us a lot. We're able to call him any time," said Manibusan.

Inspired by his father-in-law, Manibusan's goal upon completing all four levels of HVAC is to go into business for himself.

Letecia V. Bates

After 15 years of working in a bakery, 52-year-old Letecia Bates was ready for a career change. One day as she walked past the Trades Academy, Bates decided to go in and find out what types of classes were offered. She signed up for Core Curriculum.

"I started with the Core Curriculum and I didn't know anything and I wasn't good at the math. But Liza (Peredo) was so patient. She tutored me and encouraged me and told me that I could do it," said Bates.

Bates had advanced to Construction Craft Laborer 2 when a company called Nova reached out to her with a job offer. Although she had no work experience in construction, Bates was willing to work hard and prove to the company that she could do the job.

"I had no experience in construction but I was out there shoveling and cleaning. Everyone has to start somewhere and I was willing to learn. I showed the men that I could do the jobs. I have so much respect for the Trades Academy that I was motivated to work hard because I didn't want to let them down," said Bates.

After completing her job with Nova, Bates was offered a position with Purcell Paintings and Coatings. Bates is currently the company's confined space attendant, a job that is responsible for looking out for the safety of her team.

"When I worked in the bakery, my feet hurt so bad that I couldn't walk. But working in construction, we're moving around and my feet don't hurt," said Bates.

"I feel more proud about my work now than I did when I was a baker. I don't know why. But now I'm always happy at work. I want to show everybody that women can succeed in construction jobs. It's a powerful feeling. I wish I had done this 20 years ago," she said.

GCA Trades Academy Schedule

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2018

CORE CURRICULUM

00101-15	Basic Safety				\$200.00
18-038	Tuesdays & Thursdays	08Feb18 – 22Feb18	6:00 pm – 8:30 pm	Barrigada Training Facility room 1	
00102-15	Introduction to Construction Math				\$240.00
18-024	Tuesdays & Thursdays	25Jan18 – 13Feb18	6:00 pm – 8:30 pm	GCA conference room	
00103-15	Introduction to Hand Tools				\$320.00
00104-15	Introduction to Power Tools				
18-016	Monday & Wednesdays	29Jan18 – 26Feb18	6:00 pm – 8:30 pm	GCA conference room	
18-032	Tuesdays & Thursdays	15Feb18 – 13Mar18	6:00 pm – 8:30 pm	GCA conference room	
00106-15	Basic Rigging				\$200.00
00109-15	Introduction to Material Handling				
18-004	Tuesdays & Thursdays	23Jan18 – 06Feb18	6:00 pm – 8:30 pm	Barrigada Training Facility room 1	

HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR (LEVEL 3)

22203-14	Compaction Equipment				\$240.00
17-209	Saturdays	03Feb18 – 17Feb18	8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Barrigada Training Facility room 4	

NCCER INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION

NCCER	Instructor Certification Training Program				\$385.00
18-055	Tue-Wed-Thu	06Feb18 – 08Feb18	8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Camp Covington	
18-022	Tue-Wed-Thu	13Feb18 – 15Feb18	8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Barrigada Training Facility room 1	

CONSTRUCTION CRAFT LABORER (LEVEL 1)

27101-13	CARPENTRY 1: Introduction to the Trade				\$360.00
27102-13	CARPENTRY 1: Building Materials, Fasteners, & Adhesives				
18-012	Monday & Wednesdays	05Feb18 – 07Mar18	6:00 pm – 8:30 pm	Barrigada Training Facility - CARP	

CONSTRUCTION CRAFT LABORER (LEVEL 2)

27304-14	CARPENTRY 3: Reinforcing Concrete				\$240.00
18-015	Saturdays	27Jan18 – 10Feb18	8:00 am - 12:00 noon	Barrigada Training Facility - CARP	
27308-14	CARPENTRY 3: Vertical Formwork				\$360.00
18-025	Saturdays	17Feb18 – 17Mar18	8:00 am - 12:00 noon	Barrigada Training Facility - CARP	
75122-13	FIELD SAFETY: Working from Elevations				\$80.00
18-011	Tuesdays & Thursdays	23Jan18 – 25Jan18	6:00 pm – 8:30 pm	Barrigada Training Facility - CARP	
70101-14	Your Role in the Green Environment				\$240.00
18-017	Tuesdays & Thursdays	30Jan18 – 15Feb18	6:00 pm – 8:30 pm	Barrigada Training Facility - CARP	

FIELD SAFETY

75101-13	Introduction to Safety	75121-13	Electrical Safety		
75104-13	Work-Zone Safety	75122-13	Working from Elevations		
75110-13	Steel Erection	75123-13	Heavy Equipment, Forklifts, & Cranes		
75119-13	Concrete & Masonry	75124-13	Introduction to Materials Handling		\$720.00
75120-13	Confined Spaces & Excavations				
18-037	Mondays & Wednesdays	05Feb18 – 09Apr18	6:00 pm – 8:30 pm	Barrigada Training Facility room 4	

ELECTRICAL (LEVEL 1)

26101-17	Orientation to the Trade				\$320.00
26102-17	Electrical Safety				
26103-17	Introduction to Electrical Circuits				
18-023	Tuesdays & Thursdays	23Jan18 – 15Feb18	6:00 pm – 8:30 pm	Barrigada Training Facility room 4	
26104-17	Electrical Theory				\$400.00
26105-17	Introduction to the National Electric Code				
18-031	Tuesdays & Thursdays	20Feb18 – 22Mar18	6:00 pm – 8:30 pm	Barrigada Training Facility room 4	

ELECTRICAL (LEVEL 2)

26210-14	Circuits & Breakers				\$200.00
18-028	Tuesdays & Thursdays	06Feb18 – 20Feb18	6:00 pm – 8:30 pm	Barrigada Training Facility room 2	

ELECTRICAL (LEVEL 4)

26410-14	Motor Operation & Maintenance				\$160.00
18-006	Mon, Wed, & Fridays	17Jan18 – 24Jan18	6:00 pm – 8:30 pm	Barrigada Training Facility room 2	
26411-14	Medium-Voltage Termination & Splices				\$160.00
18-014	Mon, Wed, & Fridays	26Jan18 – 05Feb18	6:00 pm – 8:30 pm	Barrigada Training Facility room 2	
26412-14	Specialty Locations				\$320.00
18-027	Mon, Wed, & Fridays	07Feb18 – 26Feb18	6:00 pm – 8:30 pm	Barrigada Training Facility room 2	

HEATING VENTILATION AIR CONDITIONING (LEVEL 2)

03303-13	Metering Devices				\$120.00
17-192	Tuesdays & Thursdays	23Jan18 – 30Jan18	6:00 pm – 8:30 pm	Barrigada Training Facility – HVAC Lab	
18-008	Saturdays	20Jan18 - 27Jan18	12:00 noon – 5:00 pm	Barrigada Training Facility room 3	
03211-13	Heat Pumps				\$320.00
17-195	Tuesdays & Thursdays	01Feb18 – 27Feb18	6:00 pm – 8:30 pm	Barrigada Training Facility – HVAC Lab	
18-026	Saturdays	03Feb18 - 24Feb18	12:00 noon – 5:00 pm	Barrigada Training Facility room 3	

HEATING VENTILATION AIR CONDITIONING (LEVEL 3)

03311-13	Troubleshooting Heat Pumps				\$200.00
18-003	Mondays & Wednesdays	17Jan18 – 31Jan18	6:00 pm – 8:30 pm	Barrigada Training Facility – HVAC Lab	
03209-13	Troubleshooting Gas Heating				\$400.00
03310-13	Troubleshooting Oil Heating				
18-013	Mondays & Wednesdays	05Feb18 – 12Mar18	6:00 pm – 8:30 pm	Barrigada Training Facility – HVAC Lab	

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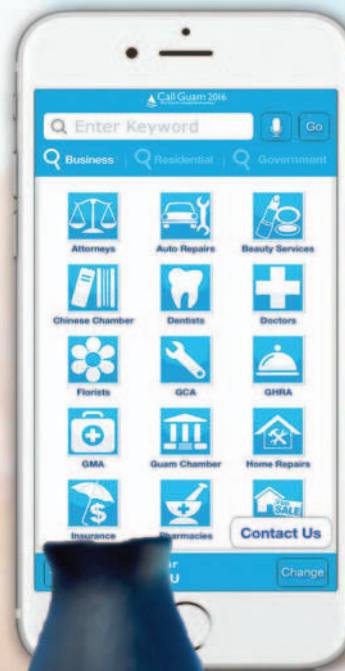


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